In the Claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for producing a model for neurofibrillary pathology ~~of a neurodegenerative disease~~ which comprises somatically transferring a viral vector comprising a gene encoding an aberrant form of a human tau protein comprising the P301L mutation associated with FTDP-17 into brain tissue of a living rat or mouse under conditions which result in the expression of said gene; wherein expression of said gene results in a ~~neuropathology~~ neurofibrillary pathology in said living rat or mouse ~~corresponding to said neurodegenerative disease~~ comprising at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of abnormal accumulation of tau in neuron cell bodies and dendrites, presence of filaments immunoreactive for hyperphosphyorlated tau, neuritic immunoreactivity with anti-neurofibrillary tangle antibody, and increase of reactive astrogliosis.

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said somatically transferring comprises injecting said gene into pre-selected areas of the brain of said living rat or mouse.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said brain tissue comprises nigrastriatal neurons, septalhippocampal neurons, or both.

29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A method for inducing behavioral changes in a living rat or mouse which comprises somatically transferring a gene encoding an aberrant form of human tau protein comprising the P301L mutation associated with FTDP-17 directly into nigrastriatal neurons, septalhippocampal neurons, or both, in the brain of said living rat or mouse, wherein said somatically transferring a gene reduces memory in said living rat or mouse.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein somatically transferring comprises injecting an effective amount of gene expression construct encoding tau into the brain of said living rat or mouse.

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein somatically transferring is achieved by using an adeno-associated viral vector.

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)